



Metropolitan King County Councilmember

Larry Gossett

Summer 2005

What does the King County Council do for you?

The Metropolitan King County Council governs the 13th most populous county in the nation, with 1.8 million people living within 2,200 square miles. As your elected officials, we have responsibilities ranging from regional services like transportation to local services like police in unincorporated areas of our County.

King County Government's main services are in the following areas:

- Metro Transit bus service and county roads
- King County International Airport (Boeing Field)
- Wastewater treatment and solid waste management
- Public health and human services
- Regional parks and Aquatic Center
- Records, elections, and licensing
- Criminal justice services, including sheriff's deputies, prosecutors, public defenders, District and Superior courts, juvenile and adult jails
- Property tax appraisals

We invite you to watch the Council on King County Television on Comcast Cable, Channel 22 or Millennium Cable Channel 72/80.

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Gossett**

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Dear Friends & Neighbors

I deeply appreciate the fact that hundreds of you responded to the survey questionnaire in my spring newsletter. We are reviewing the many issues you addressed and will provide you with the results in a later newsletter.

Many of you wanted to understand better all the functions the King County Council is responsible for, so we have provided you a summary on the cover of this newsletter.

I enjoy hearing from the citizens I represent. I have always worked hard at involving the people affected by the big public policy decisions that the Council is making into law. So I encourage you to call my office and give me your opinion on neighborhood issues you think County government should address, such as:

- whether we are effectively operating the criminal justice system,
- how the King County Health Department is doing in lowering the incidence of infant mortality,
- any issues dealing with the structure and services of the Metro bus system within King County, such whether the fares are equitable,
- the policy of “growth pays for growth,” which means that people who build new homes and require sewer hook-ups pay more to the County than customers living in older homes.

As the County’s legislative body, the Metropolitan King County Council has to wrestle with these and many other important issues. And as your voice on the Council, knowing your needs and thoughts enables me to represent you better and work toward improving the living conditions of people here in Martin Luther King, Jr. County.

Sincerely,



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A tribute to Dr. Homer Harris

Councilmember Larry Gossett joined Dr. Homer Harris in cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of Homer Harris Park on May 14, 2005. Dr. Harris, one of Seattle's most prominent and beloved doctors for 43 years, was also one of Seattle's greatest athletes.

Homer Harris Park, located at 2401 East Howell Street, contains a picnic area, healing gardens, and a children's discovery play area. Funds donated by King County were used to incorporate art and history elements into the park that express the unique character of the neighborhood and celebrate Dr. Harris' life. (See www.seattleparksfoundation.org)

Dr. Harris' life has been filled with exceptional achievements and honors, including being named "Pioneer Black Doctor" in Seattle in 1989 and one of the three best athletes in Seattle's history by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in 1976. In 2002, Dr. Harris was inducted into the Iowa Athletic Hall of Fame where he had played college football. Dr. Harris retired at the age of 84 and currently resides in Queen Anne with his wife of 55 years, Dorothy.

Dr. Harris' family first came to Seattle in the 1890's. Born and raised in Seattle's Central Area, Dr. Harris overcame racial prejudice and broke color barriers in his professional and athletic life. Upon graduating from medical school, Dr. Harris returned to Seattle to become Seattle's first African American dermatologist.





Van donation for Boys & Girls Club

Councilmember Larry Gossett, along with Councilmember Dow Constantine, present a passenger van to the Rotary Boys and Girls Club. Accepting the keys to the van is Executive Director Patrick Carter. The “retired van” from the County’s commuter program will be used to transport children to and from Boys and Girls Club activities.



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